THE LIBRARY
GARRETT BIBLICAL INSTITUTE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit . . ."

METHODIST Peace Courier

Vol. 1, No. 10 November 1954

EAST-WEST TENSIONS RELAX

By Charles F. Boss, Jr.

Whether as temporary expediency or as first steps in new, long-range policy, the Soviet Union in past weeks has made decisions which have resulted in a relaxing of East-West tension. How significant these decisions are remains to be seen. Some incidents, however, even raise the question, "Does the Soviet Union desire, upon honorable terms, to resolve the problems which now prolong the cold war?"

An interesting situation may be imminent. Should the initiative of the Soviet Union make possible the elimination of the Iron Curtain, does the West desire to raise it? This would present many complications. Under what conditions might the West raise the Curtain? It may be well to be considering the implications which would arise in the event the Iron Curtain were lifted.

Recent facts, such as those which follow, have encouraged fairly wide agreement that the new regime in the USSR is truly acting upon changed policy. Most analysts do not conclude that there is a fundamental change in the basic philosophy and objectives of the Soviet Government or of the Communist Party. Nevertheless, what has been changed, we may with proper caution consider more hopeful for ultimate world peace. Reflect upon the points below.

1. The gap between policies of the West and of the Soviet Union has been slightly reduced. The Soviet Union, in secret consultations on disarmament in London, accepted the disarmament proposals of the United Kingdom and France as a working basis, although disagreeing as to what the proposals at certain points mean.

2. The Soviet Union on October 23rd in the Political and Security Committee of the United Nations joined with the Western powers for the first time since 1946 in sponsoring a joint resolution, a resolution which had the effect of setting the Disarmament Commission to work. There remain, however, fundamental differences in views on the specific powers to be given to the proposed disarmament authority.

3. Mr. Vyshinsky, Chief Delegate of the USSR, while rejecting the intent of a United States proposed amendment calling upon the Disarmament Commission to take into account broad implications and powers proposed by the United States, nevertheless did unite with the Western powers on an amendment which instructed the Disarmament Commission to give consideration to all proposals which might be submitted to it. This would, of course, include the proposal of the United States Delegation.

4. A resolution introduced by India, calling upon the Disarmament Commission to study ways and means of establishing immediately an "armament truce," pending the reaching of agreement upon a disarmament plan and the prohibition of atomic weapons, was referred to the Disarmament Commission (rather than being debated in the General Assembly) when the Delegate of the USSR united with the Western powers in expressing strong objection to the Indian resolution as a "risky" procedure.

5. Also, besides the acceptance without protest by the USSR of the radically changed political situation in the Middle East, are (1) the United Kingdom and Egypt have ironed out their difficulties, (2) Iran, with the help of the good offices and economic aid from the United States, resolved differences with the United Kingdom, (3) Israel on October 9th formally accepted Col. Charles F. Brewster as the new Chairman of the Israeli-Jordanian mixed Armistice Commission, the border situation having reflected marked improvement. With the new situation Israel ceased boycotting the Armistice Commission.

6. If press accounts of Nehru's visit to Communist China and his conference with Chou-En-Lai are accurate, Nehru may have agreed to a non-aggression pact respecting the sovereignty and integrity of South and Southeastern Asia, although rejecting proposals for an Asian military armed regional defense pact in opposition to SEATO. This might very well provide an essential restraint upon any consideration of

Methodist Peace Courier

Published ten times a year by the Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

Subscription rates: $1.00 per year...60 cents a year per subscription when ordered in bundles of five or more to one address.

Officers of the Board: Rev. Ralph W. Sockman, president; Rev. Edmund Heinsohn, vice-president; Rev. George W. Carter, recording sec'y; Rev. Irvin S. Motz, treasurer.

Staff: Rev. Charles F. Boss, Jr., executive sec'y; Rev. Carl D. Soule, field sec'y; Mr. Herman Will, Jr., administrative sec'y.

EAST-WEST TENSIONS RELAX—Continued

aggression by the Chinese Communists, should there be such.

7. The Soviet Union has asked for a Four Power parley. Further steps for closing the "cold war" may be contemplated. On the other hand, the Soviet Union is suspected of a possible last minute attempt to influence Europeans against European unity plans, since the USSR has proposed an all-European security arrangement. The Western representatives, including Prime Minister Churchill and President Eisenhower, have expressed the view that nothing could be gained by a Four Power conference at this time.

8. The wide acceptance by Germans and French of the negotiated Saar agreement removes an historic bone of contention which in past years helped precipitate Franco-Germanic wars.

9. The United Kingdom's Lord Selwyn Lloyd (a Methodist) after four years of experience in the United Nations as Minister of State under Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden, upon leaving the U.N. for England on October 19th, expressed himself as believing that tension generally has been reduced and the risk of a third world war greatly lessened. He made reference to a few remaining items on the cold war agenda. He expressed optimism concerning the future of the United Nations.

10. Newspapers reported on November 3 that the President, in a reply to a Soviet memorandum of September 22 indicating the Russians desire to renew negotiations on the President's proposal for an international atomic energy agency, said that he hoped his message to Russia would "start a new phase in the U.S.-USSR Negotiations." He expressed hope that it would be more fruitful than earlier attempts. He also announced that Morehead Patterson, businessman of New York, has accepted the President's appointment to head U.S. negotiations, working under Secretary of State Dulles.

11. On October 27th, President Eisenhower expressed belief that the chances for peace are better now than two years ago.

There are, to be sure, propaganda and strategic policy traps in which neither the American Eagle nor the Russian Bear desire to be caught. Progress may prove to be cautious and slow. But, however slowly, there is progress toward peace.

PEACE LEADERS CONFER

During early September more than seventy representatives from the boards of world peace of 27 annual conferences met in two regional meetings, one at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, and the other at Lambuth Inn, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. In these sessions there were two major emphases: (1) a presentation and discussion of the Crusade for World Order, and (2) a consideration of the continuing organization and program for peace on the conference, district, and local church levels.

The conferees were united in urging the appointment of local church and district peace committees where they do not already exist, and the appointment of district peace secretaries, in order that the necessary organization may be available for an effective church-wide effort for world order. Among other steps recommended for the local church peace program were the wider use of audio-visual materials through the use of FORECAST, increased leadership training opportunities for local leaders, the establishment of a literature table including reading materials for various ages, assistance to conscientious objectors needing help, and the observance of World Order Sunday in the church and its organizations. Full cooperation in the Crusade was planned for the conferences represented.

The desire was expressed by all those who attended for another planning conference to be held next year. Speakers included Bishops G. Bromley Oxnam and Matthew W. Clair, and Drs. Harold A. Bosley and O. Frederick Nolde. Participating in the meetings from the staff of the Board of World Peace were Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., Dr. Carl D. Soule, and Mr. Herman Will, Jr.

MEETING OF WISCONSIN BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
September 25, 1954

This meeting was designed to choose officers for the peace board for the coming year and to outline plans for the Crusade in Wisconsin Conference. Six ministers, four laymen, and three District Superintendents were present.

Rev. John Wagner of Fond du Lac was elected chairman; Huntley Lewis of Oconto Falls, secretary; and Lawrence Giese of Milwaukee, vice-chairman. The film, "Youth and the Crusade for World Order," was shown and implementation of it was discussed. The decision was made to use all district meetings called for general or other purposes to discuss the Crusade program.

District secretaries were appointed: Rev. Ray Biggers for Appleton, Mrs. Lushbough for Watertown, and Lawrence Giese for Milwaukee.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING?

For more than 150 years the Congress of the United States has shown great wisdom in refusing to adopt any long-range or permanent system of universal military training. Yet -- periodically -- proponents of and propagandists for universal military training have confronted the country and Congress with varied plans and highly organized pressures for the adoption of universal military training. The present year is running true to form.

In August (1954) the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. John Hannah, released new UMT proposals which had the approval of the National Security Council and, presumably, the general approval of President Eisenhower. Speaking to the American Legion Convention in Chicago, President Eisenhower assured the Legion, with considerable emphasis in his statement, that a new plan for universal military reserves would be presented to the next Congress. We hope he will not do this. Shortly thereafter, another prominent speaker told the Legion that in the light of present scientific warfare universal military training is obsolete. Should the administration propose UMT, it will certainly be confronted with a rising stubborn opposition.

The present picture reveals that many question even the continuation of Selective Service which is compulsory military training on a "crisis" basis. Many prefer Selective Service to a universal military training plan because Selective Service comes up for periodic review by Congress. Also, many scientists, and not a few military men, consider UMT obsolete.

One notes also sharp differences in judgment between the various armed services on methods of recruitment and training. Differences are known to exist between the Pentagon, Navy, Marine, and Air Force. Educators and their institutions will be confronted with new problems. Congressmen will be required to consider all these differences should a UMT plan be presented. They must also consider the cost to the taxpayer in billions of dollars. Some armed force leaders consider proposals which have been suggested for a permanent reserve system to be wholly inadequate for military training purposes.

The Church, generally speaking, is in opposition to universal military training. The Methodist Church is officially opposed to any system of UMT, by action of its General Conference, its Council of Bishops, the Board of World Peace, and other Methodist organizations and agencies. Opposition derives from deep-rooted views concerning the freedoms with which God has endowed every man -- "unalienable" freedoms and rights which are contrary to basic assumptions of state-control of minds, consciences, liberties, and lives. There has been growing across the world a dangerous doctrine. I refer to the doctrine of the assumed supreme right of the state over the lives of its citizens. The Church will jealously guard these human rights endowed by the Creator. The encroachment of the state upon them is one of the deplorable characteristics of our generation. Let us rather stress proceedings for action on the part of the international community, uniting to achieve universal disarmament and the universal abolition of UMT through the United Nations.

The Board of World Peace proposes to keep the churches informed and to recommend study and action with reference to any and every official proposal for UMT which may arise. C.F.B.

SOUTH DAKOTANS WORK FOR THE U.N.

Within the year United Nations work has moved forward in South Dakota. In the spring a number of citizens were called together by Governor Sigurd Anderson to discuss the formation of a state chapter of the American Association for the United Nations.

Mrs. I. Ray Howard of the Huron Methodist Church is the new executive secretary of the organization. Superintendent of Schools Lloyd Uecker of the First Methodist Church in Mitchell is a member of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Howard Crandall, chairman of the peace committee of the First Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, is head of the A.A.U.N. chapter in that city.

On the first two Tuesdays of October, Mrs. Crandall's chapter had a United Nations workshop for the training of speakers to serve local organizations during October. Support for the U.N. has been obtained in the local press and on radio programs. On October 25 there was a United Nations parade in the city in which the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion took a prominent part.

At the Pastors' School held at Lake Poinsett the first week of October, the Conference Board of World Peace and the District Superintendents agreed to have twelve sub-district Crusade workshops in January. Carl D. Soule

---

HELP!

How many times have you wished you knew what you might do for the cause of peace? Is it worth $1.00 per year to receive a bulletin that will help answer this question?

The METHODIST PEACE COURIER carries regularly suggestions and resources for peace-minded Methodists to use in their local church, district, and conference. $1.00 for ten issues; 60¢ per copy per year in bundles of five or more to one address. Subscribe now for the key leaders in your church.

GUIDE TO CRUSADE STUDY BOOKLET

A brief leader's Guide to the Study of Plowshares and Pruning Hooks, the 50¢ Crusade study booklet being distributed by the Central Promotional Office, will be available by January 1, and should be ordered from the Board of World Peace.

SPECIAL OFFER

The Board of World Peace is making a special offer on the booklet, Christian Faith and the World Crisis, which has been selling for 25¢ each. This booklet was prepared by the faculty of the Boston University School of Theology and deals with the Christian teachings which are fundamental to any approach to present world issues. In concise sentences it accurately delineates the chief characteristics which compose the world revolutionary background in which the churches and nations must work for peace. We recommend it highly for use by college and adult age church school classes, adult forums, and special study groups on peace and world order. Reduced price: 10¢ each, $1.00 per dozen. Please send the remittance with your order to the Board of World Peace at 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

METHODIST SEMINARS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Six or seven United Nations seminars for Methodist leaders are being conducted this fall and winter at the United Nations. The first of these, held during the last week of September, was a cooperative seminar with personnel chosen by the Woman's Division of Christian Service and the Board of World Peace. Dr. Carl Soule and Mrs. Margaret Bender were the leaders.

Two weeks later a specialized seminar, beginning on a Monday in the Department of State at Washington and running through the next three days at the United Nations in New York, was provided for editors of The Methodist Church. Some 22 editors participated part-time and 18 full-time. Editors of the Christian Advocate, of Conference Advocates, from the editorial offices at Nashville, from The Upper Room, The Pastor's Journal, The Pastor, and other church papers participated in the seminar. Following the adjournment of the seminar on October 7, many of the editors attended the Family Life Conference in Cleveland.

The South Central Jurisdictional Commission on World Peace promoted a seminar for leaders from annual conferences in the Jurisdiction, held at the United Nations October 18th through the 21st inclusive. Pastors and lay leaders from the annual conferences of Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas participated.

November 15th through the 18th a United Nations seminar will be held in New York for the Detroit and Ohio Areas, some sixty pastors and lay leaders being registered for it. With the exception of the first-named seminar, Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Board of World Peace, directed the seminars.

In addition to top personnel from the United Nations secretariat and the United States Mission to the United Nations, representatives from the delegations of the United Kingdom, India, France, Yugoslavia, and Indonesia participated in the seminars, presenting the points of view of their nations with regard to the United Nations and the future of peace. Assistant Director to the Secretary-General of the U.N., Dr. Andrew W. Cordier; Assistant Secretary-General, Benjamin Cohen; and experts from the fields of technical assistance, U.N. trusteeships, and UNICEF participated. Dr. William Agar from the Special Services Division participated in most of these seminars, presenting the organization, functions, problems, and achievements of the United Nations.

The Chicago Area, with representatives from the three conferences of Illinois, will have sixty District Superintendents and pastors in a United Nations seminar January 24-27, and Bishop Wicke with all his District Superintendents and two pastors from each District -- a group of sixty -- will be in a seminar at the United Nations February 14-17. Increasingly, the leadership of The Methodist Church is becoming more intimately acquainted with the United Nations, its work, and its leaders. C.F.B

U.N. ON THE RADIO

THE UNITED NATIONS TODAY, a 15-minute summary of U.N. news, featuring the recorded voices of delegates taking part in U.N. meetings and on-the-spot activities around the world, carried five times weekly over 250 stations in the United States, including the Mutual Broadcasting System, the Don Lee Network and the U.N.'s NETWORK FOR PEACE.

U.N. ON THE RECORD, a weekly 15-minute program featuring candid interviews with leading world figures. With portable tape recorders, the editors of this program also seek out and put "on the record" the stories behind the news. This series is carried by the CBS Fridays, 6:15-6:30 p.m.

U.N. ASSIGNMENT, a weekly fifteen-minute program telling the story of men and women in many lands building for peace, at work on their "U.N. Assignment." This series is carried in the United States by NBC, Sundays, 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

U.N. STORY, a weekly fifteen-minute transcribed series dramatizing the impact on people's lives of the U.N. and the specialized agencies affiliated with it. These programs are carried by some 600 stations in the U.S.A.

MEMO FROM THE U.N., a weekly fifteen-minute transcribed program on the social and economic activities of the U.N., broadcast over the DOMINION NETWORK OF CANADA, Thursday, 9:15 to 9:30 p.m.

In many instances, local stations record the "live" network program and rebroadcast it at a later time. You may secure exact information by letter or telephone from your station or stations.

Herman Will, Jr.

The 1955 revised REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION! will be off the press the first week of February. 10¢ single copy; 50¢ per dozen; $3.50 per hundred.